

SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4390

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2014 PA  
293.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
2 or section 1278b, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,  
3 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public  
4 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil  
5 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

6           (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit  
7 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from  
8 high school:

9           (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with  
10 subject area content expectations developed by the department and

1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
2 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an  
3 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3  
4 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as  
5 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,  
6 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, or a course in  
7 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may  
8 complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5  
9 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and  
10 section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the  
11 algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal  
12 career and technical education program or curriculum, such as a  
13 program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction,  
14 welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in  
15 that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content  
16 as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed  
17 state high school assessment, as determined by the department. ~~Not~~  
18 ~~later than 30 days after the effective date of the amendatory act~~  
19 ~~that amended the immediately preceding sentence, the~~ **THE** department  
20 shall post on its website and ~~submit to the senate and house~~  
21 ~~standing committees on education~~ guidelines for implementation of  
22 the immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully  
23 complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year  
24 of high school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require  
25 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

26 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with  
27 subject area content expectations developed by the department and

1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
2 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and  
3 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
4 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). **THE**  
5 **1/2-CREDIT ECONOMICS REQUIREMENT MAY BE SATISFIED BY COMPLETION OF**  
6 **AT LEAST A 1/2-CREDIT COURSE IN PERSONAL ECONOMICS THAT INCLUDES A**  
7 **FINANCIAL LITERACY COMPONENT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1165, IF THAT**  
8 **COURSE COVERS THE SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS FOR ECONOMICS**  
9 **DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER**  
10 **SECTION 1278B.**

11 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both  
12 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by  
13 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,  
14 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed  
15 by the department and approved by the state board under section  
16 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or  
17 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular  
18 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical  
19 activity.

20 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or  
21 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with  
22 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state  
23 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school  
24 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing  
25 arts courses.

26 (v) The credit requirements specified in section 1278b(1).

27 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement

1 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy  
2 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access  
3 required by the state board to complete the online course or  
4 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the  
5 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the  
6 school district or public school academy:

7 (i) Has successfully completed at least 1 course or learning  
8 experience that is presented online, as defined by the department.

9 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has  
10 integrated an online experience throughout the high school  
11 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that  
12 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has  
13 integrated an online experience into the course.

14 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),  
15 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a  
16 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
17 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
18 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits  
19 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or  
20 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially  
21 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on  
22 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate  
23 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a  
24 pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement  
25 by completing a department-approved formal career and technical  
26 education program or curriculum or by completing visual or  
27 performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements

1 under subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board  
2 of directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to  
3 ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in a language  
4 other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this  
5 subsection, all of the following apply:

6 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
7 other than English.

8 (b) The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with  
9 online course work.

10 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
11 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements  
12 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
13 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of  
14 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
15 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan  
16 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to  
17 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the  
18 pupil.

19 (4) For the purposes of this section and section 1278b, all of  
20 the following apply:

21 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the  
22 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations  
23 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.  
24 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or  
25 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and  
26 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school  
27 district or public school academy.

1 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
2 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
3 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
4 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
5 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the  
6 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments  
7 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
8 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
9 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

10 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
11 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as  
12 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or  
13 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b  
14 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
15 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
16 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
17 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
18 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

19 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of  
20 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets  
21 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high  
22 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in  
23 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3  
24 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and  
25 the school district or public school academy is not required to  
26 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for  
27 meeting those English language arts or social science credit

1 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may  
2 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this  
3 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,  
4 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high  
5 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public  
6 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following  
7 criteria:

8 (a) The high school incorporates a significant reading and  
9 writing component throughout its curriculum.

10 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and  
11 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign  
12 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning  
13 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other  
14 leading national or international high schools.

15 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of  
16 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is  
17 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as  
18 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the  
19 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

20 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and  
21 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the  
22 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is  
23 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those  
24 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and  
25 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty  
26 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required  
27 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard

1 under this section and section 1278b.

2 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
3 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the  
4 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at  
5 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions  
6 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in  
7 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

8 (c) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
9 the high school had a graduation rate of at least 85%, as  
10 determined by the department.

11 (d) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
12 at least 75% of the pupils who graduated from the high school the  
13 preceding year are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

14 (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
15 mathematics credit requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i), with no  
16 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each  
17 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

18 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
19 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also  
20 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science  
21 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no  
22 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each  
23 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
25 after the date it is enacted into law.